

Fatal Crash Review

Location: School Drive and Big Acre Square, Gaithersburg MD 20878

Crash Date: Tuesday, November 8, 2022

Crash Time: Approximately 7:20 AM

Local case number: 220037391

Review Date: Wednesday, November 9, 2022

Concurrence: <u>Michael L. Paylor</u> Date: 3-1-2023

Location and Site Description:

School Drive is a 48' wide 2-lane residential roadway, approximately 1750' long, oriented east-west separated by double yellow centerlines. School Drive begins at Muddy Branch Road and end 0.34 mile to the east ending at Malcom King Park. There is an over vertical at its intersection with Big Acres Square where there is a marked crosswalk providing access to the Fields Road Elementary School. The posted speed limit is 25 MPH. The roadway is maintained by the City of Gaithersburg.

Description of Crash:

Crash report indicated a single vehicle, which was traveling westbound on School Drive, struck two pedestrians, who were crossing the roadway within the crosswalk in front of the Fields Road Elementary School (FRES). Both pedestrians suffered fatal injuries in the crash.

Field Observations:

A field investigation was conducted at the crash location on November 9, 2022, at 11 am. On the eastbound approach a 25 mph speed limit sign is located 530' from the crosswalk, followed by a roadside flasher with a "*Speed Limit 25 mph when flashing*" sign 285' from the crosswalk near the FRES western driveway. On the westbound approach a 25 mph speed limit sign is located 540' from crosswalk, followed by a "*Fines Double*" sign (w/school hours plate) 300' from the crosswalk and a roadside flasher with a *School* sign at the FRES eastern driveway 225' from the crosswalk. *School Crossing* signs are posted at the crosswalk. A school zone has not been designated along the roadway. Also, advance crosswalk signs are not present. Safe sight distance is present on both approaches to the crosswalk.

Conclusion/ Recommendations to City of Gaithersburg:

- 1) A designated school zone needs to be provided.
- 2) Provide consistent signage at the flashers. (The flasher on the eastbound approach has a "*Speed Limit 25 mph when flashing*" sign; however, the posted speed is 25 mph. The flasher on the westbound approach has a *School* sign.)
- 3) Provide consistent signage on both approaches to the school/crossing
- 4) Install advance pedestrian warning signs on both approaches.

Pictures:

See page 2



Westbound School Drive, approximately 350' east of crosswalk



Westbound School Drive, approaching flasher (approximately 250' east of crosswalk)



Eastbound School Drive, approaching flasher (approximately 450' west of crosswalk)



Eastbound School Drive, approaching flasher (approximately 100' west of crosswalk)